671 from the Swedish-Finnish period and based on the idea of the active co-operation of the people. The law is trusted by the people and felt to be binding on everybody, the highest executive
•647 powers included. Civil servants and officials have generally demonstrated high moral standards--to assure them complete impartiality their positions are made permanent, forfeited only in the case of a serious misdemeanor--and
[662] corruption has been almost unknown. Lately,
[551] political connections have begun to play an important role in public life, and, as indicated above, they have been sometimes decisive over professional merit in filling open positions in the administration.

SOURCES

Hallsten, Ilmi. La situation de la femme en

733 indulging in excessive drinking are high in Finland. The war caused an increase in the consumption of alcohol, as shown in the table below:

Consumption per head of 100 per cent alcohol:

1938	1. 43 litres
1943	1. 28 litres
1946	1. 90 litres
1948	1. 76 litres

•647 As everywhere in the Northern countries, much public and voluntary work is done to improve social conditions. The central office for social administration is the Ministry for Social Affairs, which is divided into five departments: general, labor, insurance, welfare, and temperance and liquor trade. The general department contains, e. g., a Social Research Office, a Housing Office, an Office for Family Allowances and Marriage Loans, and a Population Office.

747 The Social Welfare department is divided into a Poor Aid Office, a Child Welfare Office and a Rehabilitation Office. Subordinate to the Ministry are the Insurance Court, the Government Accident Office, the labor protection and welfare exhibition, the Government Labor dispute arbitrators, factory inspectors, Government reformatory schools and refugee homes, social welfare district inspectors and liquor trade inspectors. Each commune has a Public Welfare Board which supervises the carrying out of social legislation in its particular area.

745 Old age and disability insurance became compulsory in Finland by the People's Pension Act, passed in 1939. Each citizen is now insured from the beginning of the calendar year when he attains the age of 18, irrespective of whether he is gainfully employed or not. Thus, the scope